

Regular Meeting of the Region 15 Board of Education September 28, 2026

POMPERAUG REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

The mission of Region 15, a collaborative community committed to excellence, is to educate every student to be productive, ethical, and engaged in a global society through proven and innovative learning experiences supported by its strong community whose decision-making is based on the best interest of all students.

Mission Statement, Adopted 9 December 2002; Updated 2009

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Monday, September 28, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Pomperaug High School Media Center

PRESENT: Ms. Sharon Attick (absent)
Ms. Shannon Cavallo
Ms. Heather Dwyer (absent)
Mr. John Jenusaitis
Ms. Marion Manzo, Chairperson

Mr. Tom Marks
Mr. Jeff Olsen
Mrs. Heather Rodgers
Dr. Sally Romano
Mr. Steve Suriani

PRESENT: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Joe Martino, Director of Finance
Dr. Carrie Chiappetta (absent)

Ms. Manzo called the September 28, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education to, order at 7:38 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Upon a motion by Mr. Suriani, seconded by Dr. Romano
IT WAS VOTED

Student Representatives
Approval of Minutes

“to approve the June 8, 2026 regular meeting, July 9, 2026 special meeting, August 6, 2026 board retreat, August 10, 2026 special meeting, August 24, 2026 special meeting, August 25, 2026 special meeting, September 3, 2026 special meeting, and September 14, 2026 regular meeting board retreat minutes” and passed with Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Ms. Attick and Ms. Dwyer were absent.

Ms. Manzo reviewed the 2026-2027 Board of Education Goals that the board drafted at the August 10th retreat. (Attachment 1).

Region 15 Goals

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Mr. Suriani updated the Board that they received the first reads for policy#1316 Civility and #9273 Civility By-Law. The board will vote on these policies at the October 26, 2026, meeting.

Policy & Curriculum Committee

Ms. Cavallo reported the Finance Committee met on September 28th and topics of discussion included finalizing the LMES Roof project and the beginning process of the PES Roof project beginning next year. The committee reviewed the prior fiscal year's financial closeout and year-end results.

Finance and Facilities

Ms. Manzo reported the committee met on September 3, 2026. Topics of discussion included back to school information and calendar coordination, LMES Roof project, and the next steps of the GES and PES Building Projects. The next meeting is October 1st at Central Office beginning at 9:30 a.m.

PTO Advisory

Mr. Suriani will provide an update at the October 26, 2026 regular Board of Education meeting.

Pension Committee

Mr. Suriani reported the committee met on September 10th. Points of discussion included:

Building Committee Update

- Dr. Christine Carver was elected as Chair of the committee.
- Tecton Contract remains at the attorneys for review.
- The Committee currently satisfies all statutory requirements, including members with school construction experience. Adding additional members with construction experience maybe revisited in the future.

Board members asked several questions. Ms. Manzo shared that there has been no discussion about adding additional committee members at this time. It was confirmed that Building Committee meetings are open to the public, and future meeting dates will be posted on the website. Mr. Marks asked that Board Members be invited into the design process, and there was general agreement that the Board and the Building Committee should work collaboratively throughout the design process.

Board members discussed the upcoming meeting dates with the presentations planned for those dates. Mr. Suriani reiterated that the Board's goals should be used as a

Board Member Comments

framework for questioning and evaluating presentations. Ms. Manzo commented that Board members were encouraged to ask administrators how their presentations, school goals, and assessment data align with the Board's established goals. It was noted that administrators were given advance notice of the Board's goals before their August retreat.

Mr. Marks attended the September 11th Recognition at Middlebury Elementary. He shared a positive report about the September 11 ceremony at Middlebury Elementary School. The school partnered with **9/11 Day** to turn the day into an opportunity for service and kindness. Students participated in a kindness pledge and service projects, including:

- Collecting food for a community food pantry.
- Recognizing first responders and public servants through letters and thank-you cards.
- Providing handwritten cards to members of the Board of Education.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Suriani
IT WAS VOTED

"to approve the 2027 Board of Education meeting dates" and passed with Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting "aye". Ms. Attick and Ms. Dwyer were absent.

Motion Made and Passed

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Suriani
IT WAS VOTED

"to approve the 2026-2027 Board of Education Goals" and passed with Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting "aye". Ms. Attick and Ms. Dwyer were absent.

Motion Made and Passed

Ms. Manzo announced the upcoming meetings for October:

- Tuesday, October 13, 2026 Policy & Curriculum Committee meeting, PHS Media Center, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 26, 2026 Finance Committee meeting, PHS Media Center, 6:30 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates

- Monday, October 26, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, PHS Media Center, 7:30 p.m.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Suriani
IT WAS VOTED

“to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing Superintendent Smith’s goals for the 2026-2027 school year and to invite Superintendent Smith into the meeting” and passed with Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Ms. Attick and Ms. Dwyer were absent.

Executive Session

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Ms. Cavallo
IT WAS VOTED

“to adjourn the September 28, 2026 regular meeting at 9:06 pm” and passed with Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Ms. Attick and Ms. Dwyer were absent.

Adjourn



Region 15 Board of Education

Goals: 2026-27

1. The Region 15 Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all state-measured performance metrics either sustain top-tier performance or show documented year-over-year progress toward higher student achievement and growth.

The Board will demonstrate its commitment towards this goal by:

- Examining assessment data annually, and with more frequency and granularity in committee. The P&C Committee will provide more robust reporting to the full board on assessment and curriculum work.
- Assessing the adoption of data tools across the district and supporting professional development to increase the qualitative and quantitative usage of data tools.
- Ensuring that achievement gaps are identified, examined and that targets and specific plans for improvement are identified and implemented.
- Supporting and providing input on the creation of a dedicated student achievement page on the website as a point of reference for the community.

2. The Region 15 Board of Education is committed to maintaining a focus on the stewardship of our facilities:

The Board will demonstrate its commitment towards this goal by:

- Communicating regular updates on ongoing school projects with a specific focus on the Gainfield and Pomperaug Elementary School projects. The public facing website will be maintained as the project progresses.
- Continuing support of district-wide capital planning

- Investment in proactive maintenance
- Continuing to update and maintain a 5-year capital plan.

3. The Region 15 Board of Education is committed towards presenting a robust budget process and transparent financial information to our communities:

The Board will demonstrate its commitment towards this goal by:

- Providing Finance & Facilities updates at full board meetings that include incremental budget drivers and staffing needs that develop throughout the year.
- Tracking health of educational expense funds, including capital and special education contingency balances.

4. The Region 15 Board of Education will foster a school climate that supports and values the well-being of students and staff:

The Board will demonstrate its commitment towards this goal by:

- Reviewing current structures for effectiveness and identifying opportunities for improvement.
- Defining and receiving an annual Student & Staff Wellbeing Report including student survey results, utilization of guidance and psychological services, and staff wellbeing indicators.

Pomperaug Regional School District 15

Serving the Communities of Middlebury and Southbury, Connecticut

2027

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING DATES

May 4 (Tuesday) District Meeting

January 11

May 10

January 25

May 24

February 8

June 14

February 22

September 13

March 3 Workshop

September 27

March 8

March 17 Workshop

October 25

March 22

March 24 Public Hearing

November 8

November 22

April 5

December 13

April 26

With the exception of the May-District Meeting,
the Region 15 Board of Education meetings are held at Pomperaug High School
Media Center and are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Workshops begin at 6:30 p.m.

Please check the Region 15 website for meeting updates at:

www.region15.org

Approved at the September 28, 2026

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

